



## Global Nature Fund

### International Foundation for Environment and Nature

#### 1. Our vision and objectives

The international foundation for environment and nature Global Nature Fund (GNF) was founded in early 1998 with the objective to foster the protection of water, nature and the environment as well as wildlife and biodiversity. GNF's work consists mainly of

- Initiating and carrying out of nature/environment protection projects to preserve the fauna and to protect migratory species, their habitats and their migration routes.
- The implementation of model projects for the promotion of sustainable economy.
- Publications and organisation of events dealing with the protection of nature and the environment.
- Supporting international conventions on species protection.

#### 2. Mission statement

The quality of the diverse natural bases of our existence is being increasingly impaired. For this reason GNF wishes to foster the protection and the development of ecosystems, wildlife habitats and their varied flora and fauna and to further sustainable economic methods in harmony with nature and human life.

#### 3. Our Work and Projects

In 1998 the Living Lakes network has been initiated by the Global Nature Fund, a global network of environmental partnership organisations striving for the protection of lakes and wetlands worldwide. Every year several lakes represented by local and regional organisations seek admission to the Living Lakes network. Currently it consists of 42 partner lakes such as Lake Baikal (Russia), Lake Constance (Germany, Switzerland, Austria), Mono Lake (USA), Lake Victoria in Eastern Africa and the Pantanal Wetland in South America.

The vision of Living Lakes is that all lakes, wetlands and freshwater bodies of the world should be healthy ecosystems and when used by humans, it should be sustainable without damaging the environment.

Current Living Lakes initiatives related to rare and migratory species are for example:

##### ***a. "Kids for Birds" - Young People protect Birds***

The goal of the project is to spark the children's and young people's interest in the importance of their environment and the protection of the birds in the regions of Lake Constance as well as in the Living Lakes regions of the East European countries Estonia (Lake Võrtsjärv) and Poland (Milicz Ponds).

Target group: Children from 6 to 15 years. Teachers as well as youth group leaders in the project regions are invited to take part in this initiative and to discover the classroom 'nature'.

One of the most important goals and an exciting experience for the youth is the observation and identification of the local birds over the different seasons. In 2007, a 'Summer Bird Festival' will take place which allows the kids to exchange their experiences with the participants of the other project countries via internet chat. They will learn about people of other countries, about their different culture and traditions, and realise that despite all these differences they have a great deal in common.

Project Partner are BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany), Estonian Fund for Nature, Pro Natura Poland.



### ***b. Protection of the Irrawaddy dolphin, Mahakam Wetlands, Indonesia***

In 2005 the Living Lakes partner organisation RASI (Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia) implemented in collaboration with GNF activities for the protection of the Mahakam Wetlands in the eastern part of Kalimantan (Borneo). Within the scope of the comprehensive protection programme a scientifically and legally founded land use planning for the wetland and its catchment area was developed.

Studies show that the fish stock decreased in Eastern Kalimantan regarding both the biodiversity and the quantity. Reasons are the increasing exploitation of fish resources and lacking state control of catch quota. Clear-cutting and overexploitation of resources affected the coastal systems of Kalimantan massively. Due to water pollution and accumulation of sediments many riparian spawning grounds were destroyed.

In a participatory approach study results were presented and necessary measures for the protection of the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin (installation of protection zones, sustainable catch methods) were evaluated by the residents along the river.

### ***c. Protecting steppe birds and the Saiga Antelope, ~~Relevant decision of governing body on cooperation with CMS (Conventions)~~***

#### ***??Lake Tengiz, Kazakhstan***

The Lake Tengiz region located in Kazakhstan's steppe is home to numerous animal and plant species, among them also threatened species such as the Saiga antelope, Dalmatian Pelican and the Steppe Eagle. Their habitat is endangered by human influences such as: water extraction, illegal hunting of protected animals and the installation of power lines around the lake. These power lines are a life threatening traps for many steppe birds. The Saiga antelope is nearly extinct through poaching and habitat restriction.

In cooperation with NABU (BirdLife Germany) GNF supported the replacement of power lines by introducing the first solar power plant and a power windmill in the Tengiz region. A further collaboration project is the production of a trick film to raise awareness for the need to save the Saiga antelope. The trick film is currently being produced in Kazakhstan. To offer collaboration to a wide audience the film script is available not only in Russian but also in German. End of September 2006 the first version of the film will be presented in Kazakhstan.

## **4. Our Partnership with UNEP/CMS**

UNEP/CMS and Global Nature Fund have a lot in common: nowhere the necessity of intact living spaces for the survival of migratory animals becomes more evident than in lake and wetland regions. The protection of migratory species connects the "Living Lakes" of the world: Many thousands of Wilson's phalaropes migrate from Mono Lake, California to Mar Chiquita in Argentina or a huge number of different duck species fly from Lake Constance to Lake La Nava, Spain.

Therefore, on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2005, UNEP/CMS and GNF signed a partnership agreement acknowledging that UNEP/CMS and GNF pursue common goals in the conservation of ecosystems and the protection of migratory species, which can only be successfully met by enhanced and concerted actions on different levels and between all sectors; and realizing that activities undertaken by GNF, especially relating to wetland conservation such as the Living Lakes Network, concern migratory species and issues that also are covered by UNEP/CMS or its agreements.



## 5. Our priorities set in the Partnership Agreement

UNEP/CMS and GNF agree to work in partnership towards achieving the 2010 targets and wetland conservation at the international level, by enhancing their communication and cooperation, also with other relevant organizations.

Both organizations will regularly exchange information of mutual interest, including scientific information, to ensure harmonisation of activities at global and regional levels.

UNEP/CMS and GNF will communicate agreement on common areas and subjects with their respective networks.

They will seek opportunities to develop and support programmes and projects of mutual interest and develop or identify possible GNF projects for funding, both independently and through the CMS small grants programme.

Joint conservation activities are identified as follows:

- Furthering a transparent flow of information i.e. via online media spaces;
- Developing and supporting programmes, projects, and publications;
- Conveying information related to the progress of projects and essential results.

## 6. Implementing projects with UNEP/CMS

GNF and UNEP/CMS agreed to organise an international seminar on Avian Influenza at the forthcoming 11<sup>th</sup> international Living Lakes Conference ([www.globalnature.org/LLC](http://www.globalnature.org/LLC)). The conference with a focus on balancing agriculture and lake protection will take place from 29 October to 3 November 2006 at Lake Poyang in China. Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary of UNEP/CMS and members of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza will be among the speakers at this event. Around 200 lake and wetland experts from 30 countries are expected at the conference.

### Joint Programme of Work

UNEP / CMS and GNF joint work programme for 2006/2007 includes:

- Organising a Seminar on Avian Influenza at the 11<sup>th</sup> Living Lakes Conference at Lake Poyang, 29<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006, China
- Presentation of GROMS during the Nature Conservation Days at Lake Constance.
- Establish an extended section on GNF's website in order to promote the activities of UNEP/CMS.
- Identify CMS – GNF projects that could be co-funded, implemented and facilitated by the partnership.
- Introduce UNEP/CMS as well as GNF work and activities on the partner's websites and publications such as the GNF newsletter.

## Contact

Global Nature Fund  
 Director Udo Gattenlöhner  
 Fritz-Reichle-Ring 4  
 D-78315 Radolfzell  
 Phone: +49-0-7732-9995-80  
 Fax: +49-0-7732-9995-88

## Websites

[www.globalnature.org](http://www.globalnature.org)  
[www.livinglakes.org](http://www.livinglakes.org)



Email: [info@globalnature.org](mailto:info@globalnature.org)